

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 08621 011246 Z

53

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

AID-20 ORM-03 SR-02 RSR-01 /105 W

----- 096671

R 011149 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3672

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 8621

FOLLOWING RECEIVED ACTION BANGKOK INFO UDORN SONGKHLA CO DET III
ARAG PHITS FROM CHIANG MAI MAY 31. REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO.

QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L CHIANG MAI 174

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, TH

SUBJECT: GENERAL SAMRAN' S VIEWS ON INSURGENCY

1. DURING MAY 25 MEETING LT. GEN. SAMRAN, CO THIRD RTA/ CSOR III
MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION ABOUT
APPARENT LACK OF AGGRESSIVE CT ACTIVITIES IN RECENT MONTHS:

A. CT STILL IN MOUNTAINS AND THERE NO REPEAT NO INDICATION
THEIR BASIC STRENGTH DIMINISHED;

B. GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AGAINST CT HAVE CAUSED THEM CONSIDERABLE
DIFFICULTY AND PREVENTED THEM FROM GATHERING INTO BIG FIGHTING UNITS;

C. RTG OPS HAVE CUT CT SUPPLY LINES CAUSING SHORTAGES
OF FOOD AND SUPPLIES;

D. GOVERNMENT CIVIC ACTION IN AREA AROUND CT BASES HAS
PREVENTED CT FROM MAKING POLITICAL PROGRESS WITH LOWLAND THAI;
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PAGE 02 BANGKO 08621 011246 Z

E. GOVERNMENT IS EXPLOITING PROBLEMS CT HAVING WITH THE CT SUPPORT BASES BY BRINGING HILLTRIBES DOWN INTO REFUGEE CENTERS;

F. CT ARE LOOKING OVER THEIR SHOULDERS TO SITUATION IN LAOS AND VIETNAM.

2. SAMRAN ALSO SAID THAT HE HAD HAD A MEETING THAT MORNING WITH CSOR LII GOVERNORS CONCERNING SUPPORT FOR HILLTRIBE REFUGEES. HE SAID PROCEDURES NOW HAVE BEEN WORKED OUT TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE SUPPORT FOR THESE PEOPLE IN CONTRAST TO PREVIOUS SITUATION. LATER THE SAME DAY FSL BANCHOP HAD CONVERSATION WITH GOVERNOR OF TAK WHO CONFIRMED THAT SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN IMPROVED. HE SAID THERE ARE 800 MEO REFUGEES IN MAE SOD DISTRICT AND THAT HE DOES IN FACT HAVE AN ADEQUATE BUDGET WITH WHICH TO SUPPORT THEM UNTIL MORE PERMANENT ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE FOUND.

3. COMMENT: SAMRAN APPEARS TO BE GIVING MORE CREDIT TO GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES THAN JUSTIFIED BY ACTUAL RTG OPERATIONS THIS PAST DRY SEASON. CT, HOWEVER, HAVE HAD LITTLE DEMONSTRABLE POLITICAL SUCCESS IN WORKING LOWLAND THAI. CT ARE ALSO HAVING DIFFICULTIES WITH THEIR SUPPORT BASE BUT THE RTG HAS ONLY BEGUN TO MAKE AN EFFORT TO EXPLOIT THIS OPPORTUNITY. ARRANGEMENT FOR REFUGEES IN TAK IS AN ENCOURAGING STEP FORWARD.
MONTGOMERY UNQUOTE
MASTERS

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NNNNMAFVZCZ

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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